



Otford Parish Council December Newsletter 2005 No 141

Kent and South & South East England
Village of the Year 2002

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Merry Christmas

Tree of Light



The Lighting up service takes place at the Tulip Tree on **Friday 9th December** at 7.30pm. This will then be followed by singing carols around the Christmas tree and finishing off with seasonal refreshments in the Vicarage. Labels for you to write your message on are still available from the Parish Council Office. If you cannot get into the office during opening hours (8.30am - 12.30pm) then please phone up and we will write your card for you. Cheques for your donation need to be made out to Otford Parish Council. The Tree of Light will remain lit up until after the New Year. Donations are once again going to The Hospice in the Weald.

Guide Christmas Post Box



The Christmas Guide Post Box will be in Otford Library between **Tuesday 29th November** and **Friday 16th December** inclusive, during opening hours. Stamps are 15p. The Christmas cards will be delivered in the village of Otford by the Brownies and Guides. This year proceeds will be for Hospice in the Weald and Kent Air Ambulance.

Christmas Crime Reduction Menu



The following is advice from the Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership

Starters - Your Car

- Presents left in view - keep presents out of sight. If they can be seen they can be stolen.
- Keys left in the ignition - never leave the keys in the ignition even for a short period e.g. garage forecourts
- Car left unlocked - Always close windows engage steering lock and lock all doors.
- Chequebook and card in glove compartment - Take all valuables with you.
- Parked in a dark secluded area - park in a well-lit area or an attended car park.

Main Course - Your Home

- Doors and windows not secured - ensure all doors and windows are locked.
- Presents displayed under the Christmas Tree - presents should be kept out of view.
- Car keys and handbags conveniently placed - never leave car keys or handbags downstairs at night
- The unoccupied look - going away? Consider using timer switches, cancel milk and papers and ask a neighbour to keep an eye on the house.
- Opening your doors to strangers - only open your door after identifying the caller
- Large amounts of cash left at home - do not keep large amounts of cash at home.

Dessert - Your Property

- Bicycles not secured - Lock all bicycles and have them marked with your post-code and house number
- Large amounts of cash carried in handbag or wallet - do not carry large amounts of cash
- Chequebook and cards left unattended - never keep your chequebook and cheque card together and keep your pin number confidential
- Passing stolen goods to the unsuspecting - if you are offered a quality product at a bargain price ensure the source is genuine.

Don't let the criminal enjoy this Christmas at your expense. Crime is low in Sevenoaks and let's all do our bit to keep it that way.

- In an emergency always dial 999
- To confidentially report information about crime call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111
- The number for Sevenoaks Police Station is 01732 771055

Please also be aware of the seasonal problem of theft of high quality motor vehicles either by stealing the keys through the letterbox or by breaking in and taking them. Remember never leave your car keys by your front door, always keep them in a secure place.

Police Surgery

The next Police Surgery with our PCSO Dave Birchall will take place on **Thursday 15th December** between 11am and 12.30pm. Please come and see him if you have any concerns.

Carol Singing



On **Tuesday 20th December** at 6.45pm join the Methodist Church to sing carols through the streets of Otford. Meet at Telston Stores at 6.45pm Refreshments to follow. Collecting for NCH Action for Children.

Christmas cards from the Churches in Otford, listing all the church services over the Christmas period, will be delivered to every house in the Parish.

Otford Methodist Church Christmas

Services

Come and sing favourite carols at the Carols by Candlelight Service on **Sunday 18th December** at 6.30pm. The ever popular, Christingle Service will be at 5pm on Christmas Eve and then the Family service on Christmas Day at 10.30am. There will be a Watchnight service on New Years Eve at 11.30pm and a New Years Day service at 10.30am.

St Bartholomew's Church Christmas

Services



At St Bartholomew's Church the service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight will take place on

Saturday 18th December at 6.30pm followed by seasonal refreshments in the Parish Church Hall. On Christmas Eve there will be Midnight Choral Communion at 11.30pm preceded at 11.10pm by carols. On Christmas Day there will be three services at 8am, 9.30am and 10.40am. There will be a Watchnight Service at 11.30pm followed by the ringing-in of the New Year and seasonal refreshments in church. On New Years Day there will be two services at 8am and 9.30am and on **Monday 2nd January** between 11am and 3.30pm there will be an Open House at the Vicarage and all are welcome.

Videos

All these videos, which make perfect Christmas presents are available to buy from School House during weekday mornings and the Heritage Centre on weekend afternoons.

- ❖ Trafalgar Remembered - £6.50 (also DVD)
- ❖ Vanished Palace of Otford - £6.50
- ❖ Otford's Chronicle of Millennium Events - £10
- ❖ Scale Model of the Solar System - £10
- ❖ The Village Mosaic - £10
- ❖ The Bells of St Bartholomew's - £10
- ❖ Reprint of The Kentish Village of Otford (Recollections of events during 1994) - £10
- ❖ Otford Down Under - £6 -50
- ❖ Otford Village Sign - £6.50
- ❖ A Village in Kent with a Pond - £10
- ❖ Bridge Video - Replacement of Millstream Bridge - £6.50

And don't forget The Sevenoaks Round Table calendars featuring scenes of Otford for £3 or 2 for £5. All proceeds go to local causes.

Christmas/New Year Travel Details

Sevenoaks Bus Station - 01732 743040



Bus

- Dec 24th - Normal service
- Dec 25th - No service
- Dec 26th - No service
- Dec 27th - No service
- Dec 28th - Sat service
- Dec 29th - Sat service
- Dec 30th - Sat service
- Dec 31st - Sat service
- Jan 1st - No service
- Jan 2nd - No service
- Jan 3rd - Normal service

Train



(National Rail Enquiries 08457 484950)

or see www.setrains.co.uk

Dec 24th - Normal Sat service with late night alterations

Dec 25th - No service

Dec 26th - No service Otford

Special service Orpington / Gillingham to Victoria and return

Dec 27th - Normal Sunday service

Dec 28th - Saturday service (extra service 0733 Otford to Blackfriars and 1730 return arriving Otford at 1812)

Dec 29th - Saturday service (extra service 0733 Otford to Blackfriars and 1730 return arriving Otford at 1812)

Dec 30th - Saturday service (extra service 0733 Otford to Blackfriars and 1730 return arriving Otford at 1812)

Dec 31st - Saturday service

Jan 1st - Sunday service (late start)

Jan 2nd - Sunday service

Jan 3rd - Normal Weekday

Control of South East trains will pass to Govia as from April 2006 until 2014. Govia already control Southern (including the Brighton Line) and Thameslink. A new ticket machine including pin number apparatus was fitted in Otford Station recently but there is still no information on staffing hours.

As from 11th December 2005 the **2351** Victoria to Ashford will depart Victoria at **2338**

Holiday Refuse Collections

Normal Collection Day

Mon 26th December

Tue 27th December

Wed 28th December

Thur 29th December

Fri 30th December

Mon 2nd January

Tues 3rd January

Wed 4th January

Thur 5th January

Fri 6th January

Rescheduled Day

Wed 28th December

Thur 29th December

Fri 30th December

Sat 31st December

No collection

(next pick up Sat 7th January)

Tues 3rd January

Wed 4th January

Thur 5th January

Fri 6th January

Sat 7th January

Congratulations

Congratulations to Bethany Crawley (aged 10) who has been offered a place in the Under 11's National

Children's Orchestra of Great Britain for 2006. Auditions were held nationally with thousands of talented young musicians. She has been offered one of only 7 flute places. Bethany belongs to the Bartholomew Wind Band in Otford, run by Mrs Jean Kelsey, who is also her music teacher. Mrs Kelsey when told the news said "well deserved". Bethany is very excited about the forthcoming year and her family are very proud of her.

Thankyou

Mrs Jarman from Shoreham Road would like to thank the kind person who found property lost by her in the High Street and very generously posted it back to her 1st class! Well done whoever you are.

Christmas Readings

Sevenoaks District library reading groups invite you on **Thursday 8th December** at 10.30am to Christmas readings at Otford Library. Enjoy favourite readings from group members and seasonal refreshments. You are welcome to bring your own piece of poetry or prose to read. As space is limited, please contact the library if you would like to attend on 01959 522488

Knole DFAS

Knole Decorative and Fine Arts Society meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Sevenoaks Community Hall, Bat & Ball. The January 2006 lecture will be on **19th January**, when Dr Sally Dormer will speak on 'Courtly Love'. The season continues on 16th February with Terry Pearson lecturing on 'The History of the Mermaid'. Lectures start promptly at 1.45pm preceded by refreshments at 12.30pm. Anyone interested in joining the Society or would like more information, please contact the membership secretary, Hilary Thomas on 01732 762529.

Sevenoaks DFAS

The Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Sevenoaks (Sevenoaks Evening Society) 2005/2006 lecture season continues on **Thursday 12th January** at 8.15pm in the Aisher Hall, Sevenoaks School with a talk by Ms Vivien Hefferman on 'Inspired by Winter - Bruegal to Cezanne and Beyond' Anyone interested in joining the Society, or would like more information should contact Mrs Honor McMillan on 01892 532651.

CAB Surgery

The next CAB Surgery will take place at School House on **Tuesday 3rd January** between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along and see the adviser who will be happy to help you with your problems. No appointment necessary.

Sevenoaks Embroiderers' Guild

The next meeting will take place in Otford Memorial Hall on **Saturday 28th January** when Nikki Tinkler will talk about "A Tale of Twenty Quilts". The meetings begin at 2pm and more information can be obtained from Jane Barratt on 01732 833588.

High Visibility Coats

Following on from the campaign by local resident David Thomas concerning the wearing of high visibility yellow waistcoats to make residents / children more safe as they walk around the village, or on the walk to school. If you would be interested in purchasing at cost price one of these type of tops then please contact the Parish Council Office on 01959 524808.

Christmas tree Recycling



As in past years you can have your Christmas tree recycled by the District Council. All you do is put your tree at the kerbside and they will collect it at no cost when they do the next garden waste collection in your road. Trees with a trunk less than 2" in diameter will be collected until the end of January. Trees should not be decorated or in a pot or stand. If the trunk is more than 2" it can be taken to Dunbrik Recycling site where it can be placed in a large garden waste container. Residents are advised that the Council will not collect Christmas trees with their regular weekly kerbside rubbish.

Otford Primary Top Draw

TOP DRAW - The Otford Primary Draw. Your chance to win cash prizes and raise money for your local school.

The winning numbers of the November TOP Draw are:

1st Prize £50 - 216

2nd Prize £15 - 402

3rd Prize £10 - 63

Congratulations to this month's winners and thank you to everyone who continues to support the school.

Planning



The following applications will be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in December. For more

information, please contact the Parish Clerk or the Strategic Services Director, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

a. New applications

SE/05/02365 **The Woodman High Street**

Removal of condition 4 of planning permission SE/80/1827 (maintenance of parking spaces) and retention of fence and trellis

SE/05/02692 **38 Greenhill Road**

First floor bedroom and bathroom extension with balcony

SE/05/02794 **The Barn, Long Lodge Farm, Sevenoaks Road**

New roof on existing agricultural building - part retrospective

SE/05/02842 **Becket House Vestry Road**

3rd floor extension to form additional office accommodation (B1-A2), additional 28 parking spaces and external plant compound

SE/05/02873 **50 Tudor Drive**

Single storey rear and side extension and front porch

SE/05/02907 **38 High Street**

Erection of rear garden conservatory

SE/05/02915 **Holly House Shoreham Road**

Two storey side extension, first floor extension to front, single storey rear extension, provision of pitched roof above existing garage, insertion of dormer in front roof plane, alterations and new access and landscaping to Shoreham Road

SE/05/02930 **52a Pilgrims Way E**

Erection of detached dwelling to replace existing bungalow

b. Results received

SE/05/02431 **65 Pilgrims Way W**

Single storey side extension *Allowed*

c. Tree Work in Conservation Area

05/02903/WTCA **The Grange High Street**

Pruning of large Norway Maple and reduction of large Magnolia Grandiflora



The Chairman, Parish Councillors, Clerk, Assistant Clerk and the Boxers Bobbie & Becky wish you all a very happy, restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Woof!